

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) has secured \$1 million to fund the Street Violence and Anti-Gang Project, a countywide task force made up of personnel from the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, the Salinas Police Department, the County Probation Department, the County District Attorney's Office and the California Highway Patrol.

"We all deserve safe communities, homes where we don't have to worry about violence, drugs or gangs," said Rep. Farr. "The Gang Task Force is an important tool in our regional efforts to reduce the levels of gang violence, and it's a program that has proved very effective."

These funds--included the in the House Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill--are in addition to the \$350,000 set aside on Wednesday for the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention program.

"Congressman Farr has been a strong supporter of the City and County Gang Task Force since its inception and his continued effort to secure funding for this important initiative is vital to the safety of our citizens and our community," said Salinas Mayor Dennis Donohue.

The Street Violence and Anti-Gang Project began in 2005 and has had a tremendous effect on violent crime. The gang homicide rate dropped from 24 murders countywide in 2004 to only eight in 2005. In 2006, Salinas saw only seven homicides, of which four were gang-related. Similar reductions have been seen in assaults, drive-by shootings and other gang-related crimes.

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